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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,660	07/22/2003	Paul T. Van Gompel	659-1143	7010
757	7590	03/17/2008	EXAMINER	
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610			CRAIG, PAULA L	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3761				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/17/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/624,660	VAN GOMPEL ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	PAULA L. CRAIG	3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 and 28-33 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-16 and 28-33 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .                                    |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                        |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. The application has been forwarded to the Examiner by the 3700 SPRE Shop (via SPRE Henry C. Yuen) to construe the petition filed July 26, 2007 as a request for reconsideration.
2. Upon review and consideration a new election of species is hereby required. Applicant's proposed modification, in which Applicant elects one species from each category, is adopted. As proposed by Applicant, the five categories are (1) Species A and B; (2) Species C and D; (3) Species E and F; (4) Species G and H; and (5) Species I and J.

### ***Election/Restrictions***

3. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species, comprising:

**Species A: a cutout formed entirely in one of the front and rear body panel webs, the cutout removing a portion of body panel material from the web,** as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species B: a cutout with at least a portion of the cutout formed in each of the front and rear body panel webs, the cutout removing a portion of body panel material from the web,** as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species C:** a cutout having a substantially circular shape as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species D:** a cutout having a substantially oval shape as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species E:** a web in which the first and second cut edges are non-linear as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species F:** a web in which the first and second cut edges are substantially linear as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species G:** a crotch member is connected to the garment side surface of each of the front and rear body panel webs as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species H:** a crotch member is connected to the body side surface of each of the front and rear body panel webs as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species I:** a web cutting is performed separately from and after forming the cutout in the web as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

**Species J:** a web cutting is performed separately from and before forming the cutout in the web as generically disclosed in Claim 1.

4. The species within each category are independent or distinct because claims to the different species recite the mutually exclusive characteristics of such species. In

addition, these species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record.

5. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species from **each** of the following five categories of species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable: one of Species A and B; one of Species C and D; one of Species E and F; one of Species G and H; and one of Species I and J. Currently, Claim 1 is generic.

6. There is an examination and search burden for these patentably distinct species within each category due to their mutually exclusive characteristics. The species require a different field of search (e.g., searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources, or employing different search queries); and/or the prior art applicable to one species would not likely be applicable to another species; and/or the species are likely to raise different non-prior art issues under 35 U.S.C. 101 and/or 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

7. **Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species in each category to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species**, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

8. The election of the species may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly

and specifically point out supposed errors in the election of species requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected species.

9. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species within each category are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the species unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other species.

10. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

### ***Conclusion***

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paula L. Craig whose telephone number is (571) 272-5964. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-4:00PM M-F.
12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Paula L Craig  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3761

/PLC/

/Tatyana Zalukaeva/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761